

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

STR-04 /092 W

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R 280952Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8875

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, UR

SUBJECT: FILIPINO/SOVIET RELATIONS

1. AP, IN DISPATCH DATED OCTOBER 27, REPORTED VALERIE MAKAROV, PRESIDENT OF FILSOV SHIPPING CORPORATION, SAID SOVIET UNION HAD PROPOSED SENDING MISSION TO MANILA TO DISCUSS OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES. ACCORDING TO MAKAROV, PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO GOP TWO MONTHS AGO BUT SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED OCTOBER 25 THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD BE SENDING MISSION TO MANILA, POSSIBLY BY END OF MONTH, TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN TIME JOURNAL SPECULATES THAT SHOULD THESE NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED, RESULT MIGHT BE EITHER TREATY OR ISSUANCE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PRESS REPORTS WITH CHIEF OF DFA'S WESTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OCTOBER 28. SHE SAID AS FAR AS SHE KNEW ONLY SOVIET DELEGATION VISITING IN NEAR FUTURE WAS TRADE DELEGATION TO SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT. THIS DELEGATION "WOULD NOT HAVE THE CHARACTER" TO DISCUSS OR

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NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER

MAKAROV MIGHT BE TRYING TO CROWD GOP ON NORMALIZATION. DFA SOURCE DECLINED SPECULATING. SHE NOTED GOP POLICY HAD BEEN TO HAVE SIMULTANEOUS NORMALIZATION WITH BOTH PRC AND USSR, BUT MOSCOW'S INABILITY AND/OR UNWILLINGNESS ACCOMMODATE MOARCO'S TRAVEL PLANS HAD MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE. (COMMENT: IN FACT, GOP SIMPLY OPTED TO GO WITH PRC FIRST.)

4. COMMENT: MARAROV'S STATEMENT TO AP SUGGESTS HE IS UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM MOSCOW TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE GOP-USSR TIES FORMALIZED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, HOWEVER, GOP HAS NOT YET AGREED WITH USSR EVEN TO TERMS UNDER WHICH TRADE MISSION MIGHT OPERATE. WHILE GOP WILL PRESUMABLY AGREE ON THOSE TERMS AT SAME TIME, IT DOES NOT GIVE ANY SIGNS OF FEELING UNDER PRESSURE ON THIS SCORE AND WE WOULD CONSEQUENTLY ASSUME IT IS ALSO NOT LIKELY TO ACCOMMODATE MARAROV'S EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE TRANSITION FROM TRADE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSION. SINCE GOP IS HOST OF ONLY A FEW DAYS TO NEW PRC MISSION, IT MAY WELL WISH TO BIDE ITS TIME ACCUMULATING EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH MAJOR-POWER COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS.

5. FOR MOSCOW: WE SHOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING LEVEL OF DELEGATION WHICH WILL VISIT MANILA. SULLIVAN

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